



# Kansas Department of Health and Environment **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

July 2018 | Volume 6



## Recent News Releases

[New Kansas Law Protects Good Samaritans from Liability](#)

[Excessive Heat Warning Issued Across Kansas, Use Caution](#)

[CDC Report Outlines State Suicide Rates — Kansas Ranks 19th Overall](#)

[Click here to visit our Newsroom for more!](#)



## Upcoming Events

[July 24-25 Small Arid Landfill Owners & Operators Workshop](#)

*Garden City, Clarion Hotel  
Hosted by KDHE BWM.*

*Elected officials and county employees welcome*

[July 31 - August 3, 99th Annual Water & Wastewater Operators School & Examinations](#)

*University of Kansas Union  
Lawrence, Kansas  
Operators School: July 31-  
August 2, 2018  
Exam: August 3*

[Aug 7-8 Kansas Environmental Conference](#)

*Wichita Marriott Hotel*



## New KanCare MCOs

**By Secretary Jeff Andersen**

On June 22, State Medicaid Director Jon Hamdorf and I announced the selection of three managed care organizations (MCOs) that will serve the Kansas Medicaid program, known as KanCare. The contracts include one new organization and two current KanCare companies, Sunflower State Health Plan, Inc., United Healthcare, Midwest Inc. and Aetna Better Health of Kansas, Inc.

The MCOs were selected from a pool of six candidates, which submitted bids during a Request for Proposal (RFP) process through the Kansas Department of Administration (DoA).

A multi-step process, including over 60 multi-agency staff, preceded the 17-member review committee's evaluation of the six RFP bids. Committee members consisted of KDHE and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) staff members with experience and knowledge working with the Kansas Medicaid system.

The evaluations considered cost and technical capabilities to perform the work outlined. A recommendation was made, approved and then forwarded to the procurement negotiating committee (PNC) and DoA for review and approval. Based on the process, the PNC then awarded the contracts.

We received tremendous feedback every step of the way as the contract language was developed. We took into consideration the concerns we received from KanCare consumers, advocacy groups, legislators and other stakeholders.

Our goal is to provide Kansans with a cost effective and dependable Medicaid program that serves their needs, and the new contracts will further that objective.

### Key improvements in the new MCO contracts



Greater oversight and accountability



Improved response to consumer needs



Enhanced care coordination



Supported employment pilot for persons with disabilities and behavioral health needs



New value-added benefits



Adult dental services will continue

## Division of Public Health

### Governor's Task Force to Address Substance Use Disorders

KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin hosted the third meeting on June 28. Members reviewed and discussed recommendations for K-TRACS, survey results for recovery and pain management.

### Kansas Immunization Conference

Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention held the "Vaccinating Across the Lifespan" conference at the Tony's Pizza Event Center in Salina. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin and Bur Dir. Jennifer VandeVelde gave opening remarks to over 300 attendees.

### Community Health Worker Symposium

Bureau of Health Promotion Director Ryan Lester kicked off the Kansas Symposium at Wichita State University. The meeting included sessions on Kansas Community Mental Health System, the opioid epidemic and a panel on public health interventions to address social determinants of health.

### New KanCare Liaison

Kolloh Nimley started with KDHE as a Public Health liaison between KanCare and the MCOs. She will build bridges and connectivity between our Public Health Division and KanCare as we seek to address the healthcare needs of Kansans more holistically.



## Division of Environment

### Eureka tornado

Bureau of Waste Management and the Bureau of Environmental Field Services staff were in Eureka in response to the tornado damage that occurred on June 26. The Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Kansas Health and Environment Labs, Bureau of Water, and Bureau of Air were at the ready to provide technical assistance and sampling support as necessary. Initial reports indicated nine destroyed structures, eight structure failures, and 61 damaged structures plus damage to the junior high/high school campus and severe damage to the Kansas Department of Transportation Sub-Area campus.

### Harmful Algal Bloom impacts Norton Water Supply

Governor Jeff Colyer declared a state of disaster emergency on June 22 for the city of Norton, due to a harmful algae bloom in Sebelius Lake. The algae entered the public water supply system and posed a potential health threat in the event toxins were released. The City switched to groundwater only, but the wells capacity was limited causing Stage 3 conservation measures to be implemented. Kansas National Guard transported 26 pallets of bottled water to Norton. By the June 23, the lab results indicated the water was safe to drink and the

## Division of Health Care Finance

### State Employee Health Plan

The Naturally Slim program class of 3,213 individuals resulted in 17 percent of the individuals having a weight loss of more than 10 pounds and 41 percent lowering their diabetes risk.



## CONNECT WITH US

Requests for assistance for a constituent or questions on legislative matters, please contact **Liz Dunn**: [liz.dunn@ks.gov](mailto:liz.dunn@ks.gov), 785-207-3090. Questions about agency services, programs, or anything in this newsletter, please contact **Gerald Kratochvil**: [gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov](mailto:gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov) 785-296-5795.



## District Office Tours

Secretary Jeff Andersen, Division of Environment Director Leo Henning, Deputy Secretary Ashley Goss and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin toured the KDHE District offices in western Kansas.

During their trip, they also toured Kearny County Hospital in Lakin, the Warrior Project Biogas Facility in Dodge City, and Forget Me Not dairy farm in Cimarron.

